



AIPA's 4 Indian junior pickleball earn invitation to 2026 Junior Pickleball World championships in Dallas

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 7: Four promising Indian junior pickleball players Aadya Vinod, Keerthi YS, Anjali Bhupendra Pol and Stuti have earned an invitation to compete at the 2026 Junior Pickleball World Championships, following their medal-winning performances at the Asia Pickleball Junior Open 2026, according to a press release.

The invitation, extended by the Asia Federation of Pickleball (AFP), gives the medalists an opportunity to compete on the global stage at the Junior Pickleball World Championships, scheduled to be held from November 5–8, 2026, at Brookhaven Country Club in Dallas, Texas.

Aadya Vinod and Keerthi YS secured bronze in the Girls Doubles 12U category at the Asia Pickleball Junior Open 2026. Meanwhile, Anjali Bhupendra Pol and Stuti emerged as champions in the Girls Doubles 18U category.

The AFP invitation provides medalists with exclusive benefits, including registration discounts, free



access to a youth clinic led by PPA Tour professionals, courtside tickets and the opportunity to participate in player development initiatives. The World Championships will feature 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U divisions.

All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) president Arvind Prabhoo called the selection of Aadya, Keerthi, Anjali and Stuti for the Junior Pickleball World Championships a proud

moment for Indian pickleball. He praised their hard work and performances, saying the tournament will provide valuable international exposure and inspire more young players across India to take up the sport.

“This is a proud moment for Indian pickleball and, more importantly, for our young athletes who are showing that India has the talent and potential to compete at the highest levels of the sport. Aadya, Keerthi, Anjali and Stuti have earned this opportunity through their performances, dedication and hard work. Competing at the Junior Pickleball World Championships will give them invaluable international exposure and experience, and I am confident that they will represent India with pride. We hope their journey inspires many more young players across the country to take up pickleball and dream bigger,” he said.

The Junior Pickleball World Championships will bring together young players from across the world, offering the Indian contingent an opportunity to gain valuable international tournament experience and compete against some of the best junior talent globally.

The event will also feature a USA vs Asia Junior Showcase, with two boys and two girls from Asia selected to compete against four players from the USA in a team-style competition, which will be livestreamed on Pickleball TV.

Skipper Fatima Sana sanctioned by ICC over gesture after Shafali Verma’s wicket

DUBAI [UAE], SEPTEMBER 7: Pakistan women’s cricket team captain Fatima Sana has been fined 10 per cent of her match fee for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during a Group A match of the Women’s Asia Cup 2026 against India in Dubai on Saturday, according to an ICC media release.

Fatima was found to have breached Article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to “using language, actions or gestures which disparage, or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match,” as per the ICC media release.

In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to the disciplinary record of Fatima, for whom



it was the second offence in a 24-month period, taking her tally of demerit points in a 24-month period to two. Fatima received her earlier demerit point during the first match of a T20I series against Ireland in Dublin on 6 August 2025.

The latest incident occurred in the second over of India’s innings, when Fatima, after dismissing

opener Shafali Verma, gestured in the direction of the pavilion.

Fatima admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Supriya Rani Das of the Emirates ICC International Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Nimali Perera and Shathira Jakir

Jesry, third umpire Rokeya Sultana and fourth umpire Rabab Ahsan levelled the charge.

Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player’s match fee, and one or two demerit points.

Notably, when a player reaches four or more demerit points within 24 months, they are converted into suspension points and a player is banned. Two suspension points equate to a ban from one Test or two ODIs or two T20Is, whatever comes first for the player.

Demerit Points to remain on a Player or Player Support Personnel’s disciplinary record for a period of twenty-four (24) months from their imposition following which they will be expunged. (ANI)

Ishan Kishan creates history with 270 in Duleep Trophy final

CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 7: Indian wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan created history as he became only the third East Zone batter to score a double-century in Duleep Trophy history, scoring a match-defining 270 against South Zone in the ongoing final at MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai, today.

Kishan starred for East Zone with a magnificent 270 off 334 balls, smashing 30 fours and seven sixes in the final against South Zone. He brought up his maiden Duleep Trophy double century off 270 balls and also crossed the 4,000-run mark in first-class cricket.

Kishan initially retired hurt after reaching 250 but returned to the crease and continued his dominant knock. His innings finally ended when he was caught at long-on off spinner Tripurana Vijay. His monumental knock helped East Zone post a mammoth 708 all out.

With his monumental knock, Kishan became only the third batter from East Zone to score a double-cen-



tury in the Duleep Trophy, joining Arun Lal and Saba Karim. Lal holds the highest score among the trio, having smashed 287 against West Zone in 1986, besides scoring 214 against Central Zone in the same year. Saba Karim, meanwhile, remained unbeaten on 200 against West Zone in 1995.

Ishan Kishan also became the first East Zone captain-wicketkeeper to score a double ton in the Duleep Trophy final, according to an Instagram post by Star Sports India. Overall, Kishan became the seventh batter to score a double century in Duleep Tro-

phy final. Coming to Day 2 of the Duleep Trophy final, despite losing wickets in the final session, East Zone eventually posted a mammoth 708 all out in 163 overs. Earlier, Kishan and Kushagra continued from where they had left off on the opening day. The duo added 230 runs for the fifth wicket, giving East Zone complete control after they had ended Day 1 at 385/4. Kushagra completed his maiden century in the Duleep Trophy off 128 balls, hitting eight fours and five sixes. He was dismissed soon after reaching three figures, caught in the deep off Vijay after scoring 101

from 132 deliveries.

The fifth-wicket partnership between Kishan and Kushagra was the defining stand of the day, with the pair taking East Zone past 450 before Kushagra’s dismissal.

Kishan then continued to dominate alongside Anukul Roy, with East Zone reaching 500 and then 550. The left-hander brought up his double century before eventually retiring hurt at 250, with East Zone on 611/5.

Anukul Roy contributed a useful 45 before falling leg before wicket following a review by South Zone. Mohammed Shami then added 28 before being dismissed by Shreyas Gopal. Despite losing wickets in the final session, East Zone continued to pile up runs and moved past 700, leaving South Zone’s bowlers with a difficult task. South Zone’s attack struggled to contain the East Zone batters. Mohammed Siraj, the team’s premier fast bowler, went wicketless and conceded heavily, while Chama Milind and Tripurana Vijay were the most successful bowlers.

Kathua hosts Inter-District Division Level Girls Kho-Kho Tourney

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, SEP 07

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today inaugurated the Inter-District Division Level Kho-Kho Tournament (All Age Group Girls)-2026, organised by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K UT, at Trikuta Palace, Dayala Chack, here today.

Under-17 Kho-Kho teams from various districts of Jammu Division, including Samba, Udhampur, Reasi, Rajouri, Doda, Jammu, Kishtwar, Kathua, Poonch and Ramban, participated in the tournament along with Physical Education Teachers and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the initiative of the Department of Youth Services and Sports and said that such sporting events provide valuable exposure to young athletes besides providing them a platform to nurture and showcase their sporting talent.

He said that participation in sports inculcates qualities such as discipline, teamwork, leadership, confidence and perseverance. It also teaches players to respect others, follow rules and accept both victory and defeat gracefully. Sports further contribute to physical fitness, mental strength, decision-making



skills and a positive attitude, helping young players grow into responsible, confident and successful individuals. Earlier, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Sunil Kumar welcomed the Chief Guest, other guests, participating players and their accompanying teachers. All participating players and officials also took the Tournament Pledge, committing themselves to fair play, discipline and the true spirit of sportsmanship.

Inter-District Division-Level Girls Chess Competition concludes at Chanderkote



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, SEP 07

The Inter-District Division-Level Chess Competition for Girls, organised by the Department of Youth Services & Sports, concluded today at Chanderkote with participation from young chess players from across the Jammu Division.

Around 132 girl players representing 10 districts—Jammu, Samba, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Doda, Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi and Ramban—participated in the Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 categories.

Kathua emerged the winner in U-14 Girls, while Jammu bagged both U-17 and U-19 titles.

During the closing ceremony, DYSSO Nazir Husain presented medals and trophies to the winners and runners-up and congratulated the participants for displaying talent, discipline, sportsmanship and competitive spirit. He encouraged the young players to continue their efforts and excel at higher levels.

The visiting teams appreciated the arrangements made by district administration Ramban for accommodation, food and other facilities. The championship provided a valuable platform to budding chess players to gain competitive exposure and promote a culture of sports and chess among students across the Jammu Division.

J&K Masters swimming team leaves for 22nd National Championships

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, SEP 07

The Jammu & Kashmir Swimming Association on Monday flagged off the Jammu & Kashmir UT Masters Swimming Team, comprising 15 to 20 swimmers across 12 age groups ranging from 25 years to 80 years and above, to participate in the 22nd National Masters Championships-2026.

The team was flagged off from the MA Stadium Swimming Pool, Jammu, in the presence of Association President Ramandeep Singh Soodan, General Secretary Bharat Kumar Sharma, Treasurer Vikas Mahajan and Joint Secretary and Coach Babita Rani.

The national-level aquatic championships will



be held from September 11 to 13, 2026, at Champions Aquatic Academy, H.L. City, Sector-37, Bahadurgarh, Haryana.

The championship is being organised by the Swimming Federation of India (SFI).

The J&K team includes experienced Masters swimmers competing in different age categories, with participants representing the J&K Union Territory.